

Section 1, Promises About Principles
Introductory Article
530 words

Promises about God's Principles: Introduction

Without a lot of conscious thought, you probably made a number of important assumptions before rolling out of bed this morning. First, if you were up before dawn, you assumed that the sun would be peeking over the horizon at its appointed hour (Assumption: The universe works in a predictable manner). Next, you assumed that when you stood on the floor you would not float into space (Assumption: the Law of Gravity is still operable). Finally, you assumed that death and taxes are still required (Assumption: Some things never change!).

Other things you did not assume: That your first sales call of the day would generate enough commission for you to retire; that you would have no cavities when you went to the dentist; and that your child's report card would contain all "A's." These two lists contrast things that we know will happen as opposed to things that we hope will happen. Assumptions in life—those things which we depend on to be true at all times—make it possible for us to plan, to trust, and to devote our energy to impacting the uncertain areas of life.

The same dynamics exist in the spiritual life. There are certain assumptions that we can make about God and our relationship to him that form the bedrock of our faith. Our ability to live with uncertainties is based on the assumptions—the principles or laws—which we know to always be true. Unfortunately, too many believers live their lives as if there are no certainties. They live in a constant state of "hoping" instead of a certain state of "knowing." This first section of the Promises Study Bibles contains the assumptions about God's promises that give us certainty about the promises themselves.

This section, called Promises About God's Principles, gives you the reasons to know that all the rest of God's promises are true. That is, what are the principles or assumptions believers must know and hold as they read the Bible; as they interact with God on a daily basis? We must know—without doubt—that when God speaks, he speaks the truth and that what he says is as good as done. To use a frail comparison, making this assumption about God's words is like assuming the order of the universe will not change and that gravity will not disappear (though even these are destined to change one day!). The integrity of God's words is the first assumption that we must make.

Therefore, in Promises about God's Principles, you'll discover forty-five key scriptures that lay a foundation to build on: promises about the existence of God, what he has said, the integrity of his words, the reliability of the Bible, Jesus Christ the living word, the truthfulness, purpose, and eternity of his words, and the reality that his words are the key to life. When you develop confidence about God's "words," then you are equipped for the most exciting discoveries in life: mining the riches of God's Word.

Gravity and an orderly universe are wise assumptions to live by. But the greatest is to know—not hope—that God has spoken and his words are true, now and forever.